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Organizational session for 1998
22 January, 3-6 February and
7 and 8 May 1998
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1998 AND 1999

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1998 OF THE COUNCIL AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

High-level segment

2. Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1997/319)

World Economic and Social Survey, 1998

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

(a) Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1997/319)

(b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system (General Assembly resolutions 50/120, 52/203 and 52/205 and Council resolutions 1996/42 and 1997/59)[1]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (Assembly resolution 52/205)

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[1] Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

(c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Documentation

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, and Council resolution 1997/59)

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, and Council resolution 1997/59)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (Assembly resolution 50/8 and Council resolution 1997/59)

Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1997/319)

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (Assembly resolution 46/182, annex, and Council decision 1997/218)[1]

Oral report on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (Council resolution 1983/46)

Oral report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (Assembly resolution 52/101)

General segment

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (Council resolution 1997/61)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (Assembly resolution 45/264)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Council on freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation (Assembly resolution 45/264)

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-eighth session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997

(b) Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (Council resolution 1995/63)

(c) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-eighth session

(d) International cooperation in the field of informatics

Report of the Secretary-General (Council resolution 1997/1)

(e) Proclamation of an international year of mountains

Report of the Secretary-General (Council resolution 1997/45)

(f) International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Council resolution 1997/47)

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1997/322)

Questions to be addressed

Review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the Council's functional commissions and expert groups and bodies (Assembly resolution 52/12 B)

General review of the regional commissions (Assembly resolution 52/12 B)

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) and Assembly resolution 52/170)[1]

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Council resolution 1997/66)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (Council resolution 1997/66 and Assembly resolution 52/73)

10. Regional cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decision 1982/174)

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 1997

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1997

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 1998

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1997

Summary of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 1997

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1997/67 and Assembly resolution 52/207[1]

12. Non-governmental organizations

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and decisions 1995/304 and 1997/296)

Question to be addressed

Enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolution 1997/57)

13. Economic and environmental questions

Documentation

Relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies (Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 68)

(a) Sustainable development

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixth session (Council decision 1993/207 and resolution 1997/63)

Question for consideration

Guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns (Council resolution 1997/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1997/53 on consumer protection

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-second session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI))

Report of the Secretary-General on a vulnerability index for small island developing States (Assembly resolution 51/183)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (Assembly resolution 39/229)[1]

(b) Natural resources

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session (Council decisions 1992/218 and 1993/302)

(c) Energy

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its third session (Council decision 1992/218)

(d) International cooperation in tax matters

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (Council resolutions 1273 (XLIII) and 1765 (LIV))

(e) Public administration and finance

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 50/225)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (Council resolution 1199 (XLII) and decision 1997/222)

(f) Cartography

Report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Council decision 1997/213)

(g) Population and development

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-first session (Council decision 1997/220)

14. Social and human rights questions

Documentation

Relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies (Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para.68)

(a) Advancement of women

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-second session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI) and decision 1997/229)

Question to be addressed

High-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (Council resolution 1996/34)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Assembly resolutions 50/203 and 52/100)[1]

(b) Social development

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-sixth session (Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1996/7 and decision 1997/230)

Question to be addressed

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (Assembly resolution 52/25)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session (Council resolution 1992/1 and decision 1997/232)

Questions to be addressed

Final recommendations of the Commission on the programme for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Assembly resolution 52/91)

Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (Assembly resolution 52/85)

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities (Council resolution 1996/17 and decisions 1997/234 and 1997/239)

(d) Narcotic drugs

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-first session (Council resolution 9 (I) and decision 1997/233)

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

Report of the Secretary-General on the biennial update of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (Assembly resolution 48/112, sect. IV)[1]

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1]

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 49/146 and 52/111)

(g) Human rights

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fourth session (Assembly resolutions 52/97 and 52/98)

Questions to be addressed

Protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women migrant workers (Assembly resolution 52/97)

Trafficking in women and girls (Assembly resolution 52/98)

Right to development (Assembly resolution 52/136)

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)[1]

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (Assembly resolution 48/121)[1]

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

II. QUESTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1999 AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM[2]

Substantive session of 1999

A. High-level segment

[Item/items to be selected]*

World Economic and Social Survey, 1999

B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, and Council resolution 1995/51)

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* In resolution 52/190, the Assembly invited the Council to consider devoting one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

In resolutions 50/203 and 52/100, the Assembly also invited the Council to consider devoting, before the year 2000, one high-level segment to the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

In resolution 52/86, the Assembly invited the Council to consider including the question of violence against women at the high-level segment of one of its forthcoming sessions, in the context of its discussion on the human rights of women.

[2] It is expected that the following list of questions will be revised in the light of the Council's deliberations on the proposed programme of work for 1998.

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, and Council resolution 1995/51)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (Assembly resolution 50/8 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries[1]

C. Coordination segment

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

[Theme/themes to be selected]*

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (Assembly resolution 46/182, annex)[1]

Oral report on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (Council resolution 1983/4

E. General segment

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 1998 agreed conclusions of the Council (Assembly resolution 45/264)

Report of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (Council resolution 1997/61)

Overall review of the theme of poverty eradication (Council resolution 1997/60)

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* In resolution 50/203, the General Assembly invited the Council to consider devoting, before the year 2000, one coordination segment to the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Coordination, programme and other questions

Reports of coordination bodies

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-ninth session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1998

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-ninth session

Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (Council resolution 1997/52)

Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of conference services by the Economic and Social Council

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII))[1]

Regional cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decision 1982/174)

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Council resolution 1997/48)

Summaries of the surveys of economic conditions in the five regions prepared by the regional commissions (Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and decision 1995/304)

Economic and environmental questions

Relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies (Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 68)

Sustainable development

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session (Council decision 1993/207)

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-third session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI))

Science and technology for development

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session (Council decisions 1992/218, 1997/305 and 1997/306)

Statistics

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirtieth session (Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L) and decision 1997/219)

Human settlements

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its seventeenth session (Assembly resolutions 32/162, 43/181 and 52/190)[1]

Environment

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII))[1]

Women in development

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (Assembly resolutions 42/178 and 52/195)[1]

Transport of dangerous goods

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium

1997-1998 and on the implementation of Council resolution 1997/3 (Council resolutions 724 C (XXVIII), 1488 (XLVIII) and 1983/7)

Desertification and drought

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 3054 (XXVIII) and 50/114 and Council resolution 1978/37)[1]

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 44/236, annex)[1]

Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (article 34 of the Charter)[1]

Population and development

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session (Assembly resolution 49/128, para. 25, and Council decision 1995/209)

Social and human rights questions

Relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies (Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 68)

Advancement of women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-third session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI))

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Assembly resolutions 50/203 and 52/100)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/93 on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas[1]

Social development

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-seventh session (Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1996/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on effective ways and means for achieving the goal of education for all (Assembly resolution 52/84)[1]

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its eighth session (Council resolution 1992/1 and decision 1997/232)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/86 on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women[1]

Narcotic drugs

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-second session (Council resolution 9 (I))

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1]

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 49/146 and 52/111)

Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Mid-point review by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the results of the activities for the Decade (General Assembly resolution 50/157)

Human rights

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)[1]

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex)[1]

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fifth session (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

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22 January, 3-6 February and
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Proclamation of international years.
5. Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies: human rights questions.
6. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.
7. Elections, nominations and confirmations.

Annotations

1. Election of the Bureau

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that each year at the commencement of its 1st meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 1998 is given in the annex below. According to the rotation of the office of President among the regional groups, the President for 1998 should be the representative of a member of the Latin American and Caribbean States group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the other four regional groups.

The President and the Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each Vice-President.

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Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 22 January 1998 for the election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

The attention of the Council is drawn to annex II to General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular section D, which sets out the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the indications therein and with other relevant legislative decisions, including, in particular, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

In its decision 1997/322 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council requested the Secretary-General to brief delegations, during its organizational session for 1998, on relevant issues considered at the second regular session of 1997 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/12 B, invited the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational and substantive sessions in 1998, as part of the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, to consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the reform of its subsidiary bodies, including a time-frame for implementation of its decisions thereon, as well as his recommendations relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly as early as possible during its fifty-second session.

3. Basic programme of work of the Council

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1998 and 1999 prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

In its decision 1997/319, the Council decided that the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1998 would be devoted to consideration of the following theme: "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization";

In the same decision, the Council decided that the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1997 would be devoted to consideration of the following theme: "Coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action";

Also in the same decision, the Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1997 would be devoted to consideration of the following theme: "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development".

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1998 and 1999 (E/1998/1)

Proposals by the Bureau of the Council on the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1998 and 1999

4. Proclamation of international years

In its decision 1997/320, the Council decided to postpone to its organizational session for 1998 consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of international years".

Documentation

Revised draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation, entitled "Proclamation of international years" (E/1997/L.32/Rev.2)

5. Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies: human rights questions

In its decision 1997/321, the Council decided to postpone to its organizational session for 1998 consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session and to request the Secretariat to provide additional written information on the programme budget implications of those decisions.

Documentation

Compendium of draft proposals from subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council requiring action by the Council or brought to its attention (E/1997/L.23 and Add.2 and E/1997/L.62)

Statements submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council on the administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council in document E/1997/L.23 and Add.2 (E/1997/L.44 and Add.1)

6. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject related to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation. The Council will have to decide on the subject to be selected so that a section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected can be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

7. Elections, nominations and confirmations

The Council will hold elections postponed from previous sessions to fill vacancies in subsidiary bodies. The vacancies will be listed in a separate document. The Council will also confirm the representatives on functional commissions of the Council nominated by Governments since the close of the resumed substantive session of 1997.

Annex

Members of the Economic and Social Council in 1998

	Term expires on 31 December
Algeria	2000
Argentina	1998
Bangladesh	1998
Belarus	2000
Belgium	2000
Brazil	2000
Canada	1998
Cape Verde	1999
Central African Republic	1998
Chile	1999
China	1998
Colombia	2000
Comoros	2000
Cuba	1999
Czech Republic	1998
Djibouti	1999
El Salvador	1999
Finland	1998
France	1999
Gabon	1998
Gambia	1999
Germany	1999
Guyana	1998
Iceland	1999
India	2000
Italy	2000
Japan	1999
Jordan	1998
Latvia	1999
Lebanon	1998
Lesotho	2000

	Term expires on 31 December
Mauritius	2000
Mexico	1999
Mozambique	1999
New Zealand	2000
Nicaragua	1998
Oman	2000
Pakistan	2000
Poland	2000
Republic of Korea	1999
Romania	1998
Russian Federation	1998
Saint Lucia	2000
Sierra Leone	2000
Spain	1999
Sri Lanka	1999
Sweden	1998
Togo	1998
Tunisia	1998
Turkey	1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1998
United States of America	2000
Viet Nam	2000
Zambia	1999

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Provisional agenda

Corrigendum

1. *Page 2, annotation for item 2, last paragraph*

   At the end of the paragraph, *insert*

   The attention of the Council is also drawn to its decision 1997/322 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

2. *Page 3, annotation for item 3*

   At the end of the annotation, *insert*

   In paragraph 18 of its resolution 52/12 B, the Assembly decided to establish a humanitarian affairs segment of the Council, with effect from 1998, and requested the Council to consider expeditiously the related practical arrangements and make an early recommendation to the Assembly, without prejudice to the work of the other segments of the Council.

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ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS

Note verbale dated 14 October 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose a letter dated 10 October 1997 from His Excellency Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, to His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

* E/1998/2.

98-01267 (E) 230198 270198

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Annex

LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mozambique has devoted special attention to refugee problems, even before adhering to the international legal instruments concerned.

In this regard, we have provided generous hospitality to refugees from Zimbabwe, South Africa and other countries of the world.

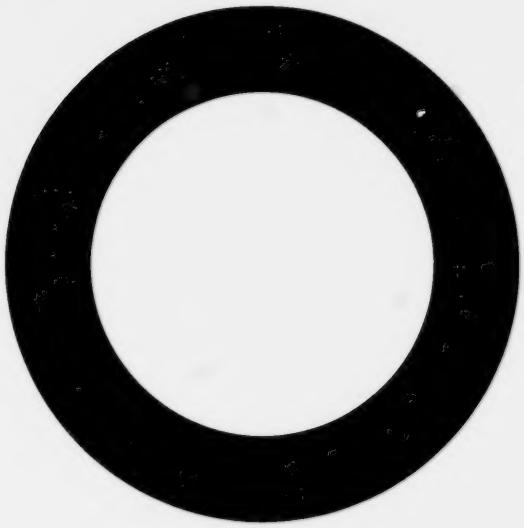
We also accumulated significant experience during the period in which Mozambican citizens were seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.

On 22 October 1983, the Republic of Mozambique acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and, on 25 August 1988, ratified the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of 10 September 1969 of the Organization of African Unity and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees on 31 January 1967.

In order to enable the correct implementation of these instruments and the principles of international solidarity and protection of human rights enshrined in the Constitution and other relevant legislation, a national law which defines the legal régime concerning the status of refugees was approved on 31 December 1991.

After examining the statutes, acts and other legal instruments of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees following eight years of experience as an observer, my country has decided to present its candidature as a full member of the Executive Committee.

(Signed) Dr. Leonardo SANTOS SIMÃO
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation



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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Note by the Secretariat

The letter, which is reproduced as an annex below, has been circulated at the request of the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

* E/1998/1.

98-02152 (E) 020298

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Annex

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

I am writing in my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1985/17 to assist it in the monitoring of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950) a proposal is put forward for the Council's consideration to the effect that "the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [should] report to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Human Rights" (para. 135 (f)). The report offers no explanation for this recommendation, although it is my understanding that it was originally linked to another proposal which was not included in the final report.

In practice, this recommendation, if accepted, has the potential to confuse rather than clarify the existing situation. At present, the Committee adopts its annual report to the Council at its session ending in December. The key recommendations are forwarded to the Commission for its information and all of the relevant documentation is publicly available. The final bound version of the report is, however, often not available as a Council document, until some time after the Commission's session has concluded in April, although it is available in time for the Council's summer session. Thus, if the recommendation is formalized, it could have the effect of delaying the Council's consideration of the Committee's annual report for some 18 months after its adoption by the Committee. At the same time, it would assist neither the Commission nor the Council in its efficient consideration of the work of this body.

In addition, the recommendation, if formalized, would have the effect of making the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the only one of the six human rights treaty bodies which must first submit its report to the Commission on Human Rights rather than to the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly. The consequence of this change would be to put the Committee in an inferior position via-à-vis all of its peers, which again tends to give the impression that economic, social and cultural rights are less important than other human rights.

In order to avoid these pitfalls, the Committee suggests that the Council should not formally mandate the Committee to report through the Commission. Instead the Council should request the Secretary-General to ensure that the report of the Committee is made available to the Commission for its consideration. This would achieve the objective sought by the Secretary-General without imposing any artificial delays or changing the standing of the Committee as an expert subsidiary body of the Council.

Yours sincerely,

Philip ALSTON